

**STATUS OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) In a telephony over data network system having at least one originating gateway and at least one terminating gateway, a method of adapting said originating gateway to ~~be associated-~~ operate with more than one communications carrier, said method comprising:

~~assigning a carrier-identifying indicia;~~

storing in association with different carriers ~~said-~~ at least two indicia in a storage medium ~~associated with-~~ accessible to said originating gateway;

comparing said stored indicia to data associated with an incoming call; and

if one of said stored indicia matches data associated with said call, connecting said call utilizing a carrier server corresponding to a carrier associated with ~~the assigned-~~ said one of said stored indicia, said carrier server having data associated with said ~~calling-party~~ call.

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1 said step of connecting said call further comprising receiving an IVR script from said server associated with said carrier.

3. (original) The method according to Claim 1 said indicia comprising at least one digit associated with said incoming call.

4. (original) The method according to Claim 1 said indicia comprising a PIN.

5. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said originating gateway comprises more than one port.

6. (original) The method according to Claim 5 said indicia comprising a port identifier.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 1, said step of assigning performed by a system gateway administrator.

8. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

an originating gateway and at least ~~one~~ two communications carrier-identifying indicia stored in association with different carriers in a storage medium ~~associated with~~ accessible to said originating gateway;

a means of comparing said stored indicia to data associated with an incoming call;

and

~~if means responsive to one of~~ said stored indicia ~~matches~~ matching data contained in said call, ~~a means~~ for connecting said call to a carrier server for authentication, said carrier server ~~corresponding to the assigned~~ being associated with said one of said indicia.

9. (original) The system according to Claim 8 further comprising a means for receiving an IVR script from said carrier.

10. (original) The system according to Claim 8 said indicia comprising at least one digit associated with said incoming call.

11. (original) The system according to Claim 9 said indicia comprising a PIN.

12. (original) The system according to Claim 10 wherein said originating gateway comprises more than one port.

13. (original) The system according to Claim 12 said indicia comprising a port identifier.

14. (original) The system according to Claim 8 comprising a system gateway administrator a means for assigning carrier-identifying indicia.

15. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing communications carrier-identification indicia in association with different carriers;

a receiver for incoming calls;

a comparator for comparing data associated with said incoming calls with said carrier-identification indicia for the purpose of authentication; and a means for authenticating said incoming calls via at least one of plural remote carrier servers, the at least one remote carrier server being selected based upon a successful comparison between carrier-identifying indicia and said data associated with said incoming call.

16. (currently amended) In a telephony over data network system having at least one originating gateway and at least one terminating gateway, a method of adapting said originating gateway to be associated with more than one carrier, said method comprising:

providing at least one originating gateway with more than one port;  
assigning to carrier servers in said network a particular port within said at least one originating gateway;  
assigning to each port a carrier-identifying indicia;  
storing said indicia in a storage medium associated with said originating gateway;  
comparing said stored indicia to data associated with an incoming call; and  
if said stored indicia ~~matches~~ match data contained in said call, connecting said call to a server associated with a carrier corresponding to the ~~assigned~~ matching indicia.

17. (original) A gateway comprising software to identify an entity responsible for authenticating a call and software to route the call for authentication over a data network to a server associated with said entity.

18. (original) The gateway of claim 17 wherein the software identifies the entity by determining at least one of: which port said call arrives, a carrier identifier, one or more digits associated with the call, or out of band information.

19. (original) A gateway comprising software to identify an entity responsible for implementing an IVR script for a call and software to route said call to an IVR server associated with said entity.

20. (original) The gateway of claim 19 wherein the software identifies the entity by determining at least one of: which port said call arrives, a carrier identifier, one or more digits

associated with the call, or out of band.

21. (previously amended) A gateway comprising an interface to convey an IVR script from a remote server to a calling apparatus, the gateway further comprising a selection means to convey a different script depending upon an identifier associated with a call associated with said calling apparatus, said gateway being further adapted to contact at least one of plural servers upon receipt of the call, the at least one server being selected upon said identifier.

22. (original) The gateway of claim 21 wherein the identifier comprises at least one of: a carrier identifier, one or more digits associated with the call, or out of band.

23. (original) A method of routing a signal onto a network comprising examining the signal to determine if AAA functions can be assumed to have already been accomplished, if so, accepting the call, if not, examining the signal to ascertain a third party entity which can perform said AAA functions, and signaling said ascertained third party to perform said AAA functions.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said signal is at least one of voice, video, or data.

25. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein said examining comprises ascertaining a port upon which said signal arrived and, if said port is in a first set, assuming the signal is authorized to be routed, and if said port is not in said first set, determining if said call may be accepted for routing by contacting a third party entity.